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MENSAJE DE BIENVENIDA
(WELCOME MESSAGE)

"To our good friends, the Mexican Nationals:

I take this opportunity of extending a 'Good Neighbor' welcome to you men who have agreed to leave your families and friends and journey so far from your homes to help relieve the labor shortage on farms of the United States.

In accepting a contract with the War Food Administration to engage in agricultural work in this country, you are contributing directly to the war effort of the United Nations, a group that includes your own country, Mexico. Food and fiber are important war commodities, and by assisting in the planting, cultivating, and harvesting of crops or in the care of livestock you are performing a service that is vital to victory.

For many of you, this will be your first experience in the United States. You will find that the habits and customs and the language of the people here are different in some ways from yours. Look upon these differences as an adventure you would not have wanted to miss. Remember that many tourists from the United States and other countries have long been attracted to your beautiful country because your habits and customs and your language are appealingly different from theirs, and for that reason a visit to Mexico is an adventure which leaves them with many pleasant memories. I hope the memories you take with you of your stay in the United States will be as pleasant. I am sure you will find most of the people you meet here are friendly and appreciative of your aid.

You will have many questions. You may want to have a better understanding of your contract, or to learn more about the United States, or to get information that will help you to become more skilled in agriculture. Whatever your question, please feel free to seek the answer from any one of the field representatives of the Office of Labor,

War Food Administration. These representatives know that answering your questions to the best of their ability is an essential part of their job. If you don't see one of these representatives very often, send your questions to 'El Mexicano', Room 446, Administration Building, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Be sure to write your name and address plainly, so that there will be no delay in replying to you. Again, on behalf of the War Food Administration, I welcome you."

Lieut. Col. Wilson R. Buie
Director of Labor
War Food Administration

MEXICANOS PARA EL FRENTE
(MEXICANS TO THE FRONT)

The President of the Mexican Republic asked the Senate, on Wednesday December 27th of last year, authorization for the Executive to send, during the period of the war against the Axis outside of national territory, troops and military equipment, one or both in the measure and at such times as it is deemed desirable. This request was approved unanimously.

For the time being, such mobilization will be restricted to the aviators, who for some months have been perfecting their training in the United States.

FIESTAS CIVICAS NACIONALES DE MEXICO
(PATRIOTIC FESTIVALS OF MEXICO)

February 5 - Anniversary of the establishment of the Constitution of 1857 and 1917, at present in force.

March 21 - Anniversary of the birth of Benito Juarez and Day of the Indian Child.

April 14 - Pan American Day
(Founding of the Pan American Union)

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May 1 - Labor Day ^{1/}

May 5 - National Holiday commemorating the victory over the French, at Puebla, 1862.

September 16 - Declaration of Independence of Mexico.

November 20 - Revolution Day.

1/ Labor Day in the United States is celebrated the first Monday in September.

LOS NACIONALES MEXICANOS

AYUDAN A SU PAIS

(THE NATIONALS HELP THEIR COUNTRY)

While working in the United States and enjoying their stay here, Mexican Nationals do not forget their people at home, especially those who need help. An example of this was the donation made to the Orphans' Fund in Mexico, La Campana De Invierno Para El Nino Pobre, by a group of Nationals at a Fiesta in Napa Valley, California, last October 14th. The men voluntarily contributed a total of \$153.79 which was then presented to the wife of the President of Mexico, who is the Director of the campaign for this fund.

CORRIDO DE LA PARTIDA

Por Francisco Cordero Oropeza, bracero,
Santa Helena, California
(MY GOOD-BYE SONG)

By Francisco Cordero Oropeza, worker,
Saint Helena, California)

I ask you to give me your attention,
please

Our return is nearing, we shall see
each other another time

Our efforts remain on American soil
The memories we shall take with us as
good Mexicans.

We gave our help to both countries
With pleasure in our hearts
And we shall always want peace.

With fervor I would like to share
these verses

With the sentiment of my soul
And with you divide my heart.

My esteem is equal for all
And we shall see each other as
brothers in our eternal journey

With this I bid you farewell,
dear United States

The remembrances of a worker,
son of beloved Mexico.

432 MILLONES DE DOLARES, COMPANERO!
(432 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, FRIEND!)

The War Food Administration has estimated that crops harvested by Mexican Nationals taking part in the farm labor program in 1944 had a total farm value of about 432 million dollars. In California alone, the crops harvested by the Nationals had a farm value of 256 million dollars. The Nationals harvested crops in 20 other States in the west and middle west.

CON EL SUDOR DE SU FRENTE...

(WITH THE SWEAT OF HIS BROW...)

Mexican Nationals employed as farm workers in the United States under the International Agreement made by the Governments of the two countries in August 1942 had earned approximately 75 million dollars by the end of 1944. Ten percent of this amount, or 7½ million dollars, was deducted from their earnings and sent to the Agricultural Bank of Mexico to be held as savings for them. The workers who were here last year earned a total of 50 million dollars. The earnings of the Nationals engaged in agriculture in this country this year should be considerably greater than 50 million dollars, for the number to be employed is expected to reach 75,000, compared with 67,860, the largest number employed at any one time in 1944.

ORDENANZA SOBRE EQUIPAJES

(BAGGAGE REGULATIONS)

Attention, all Mexican Nationals: Some new limitations have just been put into effect on the baggage that you take with you when you are transported by the Office of Labor,

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War Food Administration. It is important for you to understand what these limitations are. Previously the only limitation has been on the weight of the baggage, which was limited to 77 pounds (35 kilos) per person. This still remains in effect. The additional limitations are:

1. No baggage will be transported which cannot be carried by one person.

2. No person shall transport more than two pieces of baggage.

3. No household goods, machines, or live animals shall be transported.

4. No piece of baggage shall exceed 36 inches in any one dimension.

5. All baggage must be enclosed in receptacles with handles or other suitable means of attaching checks and sufficiently strong to withstand handling in case it has to be checked.

6. Baggage should not be checked on trains unless there is not enough space to carry it in the car in which you are riding. You should be guided by the instructions of the Office of Labor escort in this matter.

Goods which you can't take with you on the train when you return to Mexico because of the above limitations can be shipped either by parcel post, express, or freight. For information on parcel post shipments, consult the nearest postoffice. For information on express or freight shipments, consult the nearest railway express or railway freight office.

EVITE ACCIDENTES!
(AVOID ACCIDENTS!)

THINGS TO REMEMBER to keep from getting hurt while going to and from work.

1. Never try to jump on or off a truck while it is in motion. Wait until it comes to a complete stop before getting on or off.

2. Never ride on the running boards or fenders; or with your head, arms or legs sticking outside the edge of truck body.

3. Don't ride on top of loads that may shift or topple over.

4. Always make sure that the side boards and tail gate are in place

before the truck starts and don't lean or shove against them while the truck is moving. A sudden jolt, a quick turn, or a sudden stop may throw you off into the path of other cars.

5. Make certain that tools, water barrels, etc., are placed in a secure position where there is no possibility of their shifting about while the truck is in motion.

6. Don't scuffle or engage in "horseplay" while riding.

7. Follow the directions of the driver carefully and do your part in maintaining orderly loading and unloading of passengers.

8. When getting off trucks on highways or city streets, look both to the right and left before crossing road; then walk, do not run.

9. When stepping into the roadway from behind a parked car, make certain the way is safe.

10. In walking along the highway, always walk on the left-hand side of the road toward the traffic.

At night carry a flashlight, a lantern, or wear something white that will enable drivers to see you.

SE OPINA DE USTEDES...
(WHAT IS THOUGHT OF YOU...)

What do the farmers in the United States who have employed Mexican Nationals think about their ability as workers? Generally speaking, the attitude of these farmers has been very favorable, as will be seen from the comments printed below. These comments are just a few selected at random, from many that have been made by growers and growers' associations in letters and resolutions which they have sent to the War Food Administration.

"...These imported (Mexican) Nationals took care of a large part of the seasonal labor needs in agriculture.... In our county, between 80 and 90 percent of the seasonal work was done by imported workers transported by the Office

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of Labor, War Food Administration." — Skagit Farm Labor Committee, Mount Vernon, State of Washington.

"Had the Mexican Nationals not been available during the past year, a large percentage of the crops in which we are heavily interested would never have been harvested, creating an unnecessary loss." — American Fruit Growers, Inc., California Division.

"...Had it not been for the assistance by the Mexican National Labor, production would have declined by a very large acreage and our labor cost would have pyramided even more than it did in the past three years.... The Mexican National Labor has virtually saved the life of agriculture in southern California these past two years." — Fred W. Rush Co., Los Angeles, California.

"We sincerely state that had it not been for this nucleus of Mexican workers we could not have even accomplished what we did. These Mexican Nationals were good workers, dependable, courteous, and what we consider desirable in every respect." — Hunt Brothers Packing Co., Puyallup, Washington.

"During the harvest season in 1944 Santa Clara County used in excess of 2,550 Mexican Nationals that fitted in extremely well with our type of diversified agriculture. These Mexican Nationals were handled through six grower-employer associations and served about 225 farmer members plus many other growers when not needed by the members themselves. These associations, and their members feel that the Mexican Nationals are very necessary during war times to supplement our local, migrant, and volunteer farm labor." — Food Production Committee, San Jose, California.

"...These Mexican Nationals have been a tremendous factor in getting crops harvested and processed during the past few seasons. In fact, during the 1944 season just completed, had it not been for Mexican Nationals, many tons of fruits and vegetables would have been on the ground today due to the shortage of labor." — Northwest Cannery Association, Portland, Oregon.

"...Mexican National farm workers have proved themselves particularly suited to the various types of farm work in California...have proved themselves effective and efficient workers...have been fairly easy to instruct because of the availability of persons familiar with agriculture who spoke both Spanish and English...worked congenially with our regular farm workers." — California Farm Production Council.



MEXICAN NATIONALS STILL NEEDED

The following message has been written : Your services will be needed in farm especially for this issue of El Mexicano: work in this country until your present by Colonel Wilson R. Buie, Director of : contracts with the War Food Administration the Office of Labor, Department of : expire. And it may be necessary for us Agriculture. : to ask you to extend you to your contracts in order to complete this year's harvests.

Now that the war with Germany is over you may be wondering how much longer will your help be needed to relieve the wartime shortage of agricultural workers in the United States.

I can tell you that the end of the war in Europe does not mean there will be less need for Mexican Nationals this year.

We must continue to produce and harvest great quantities of food. At the time this is written, victory in the war with Japan is not yet in sight. Military requirements for food are still very high. Food must be supplied by the United States and the Allied Nations to prevent starvation among millions of people in the liberated areas of Europe.

Even though the size of this country's armed forces is being reduced some, it will be several months before very many farmers and farm workers serving in the Army or Navy can be discharged and permitted to return to their homes and their jobs on the farms.

Most of the farm people who took jobs in munitions plants, airplane factories and shipyards will still be needed in war industry for sometime. It is not likely that many of these people will be returning to farm work this year.

No, the defeat of Nazi Germany does not mean we now can relax our efforts. The war is not over until the Japanese want to stop fighting and accept unconditional surrender.

You men have made a very important contribution to the war effort by your willingness to come to the United States and work as hard and faithfully as you have. We in the Office of Labor of the Department of Agriculture appreciate your help very much, and we know the growers for whom you have worked feel the same way about it. They have said so many times.

We know we can depend upon you doing your best in the weeks and months ahead.

FREE READING MATERIAL IN SPANISH

Would you like to have a pictorial map of the United States in Spanish? You can get one free just by sending a postcard or letter to the address given below and asking for a copy. Write to:

Material & Exhibits Section,
Office of Inter-American Affairs,
Room 1201, Walker Building,
Washington, D. C.

A publication in Spanish, entitled "Paz y Guerra, 1931-1941", also can be obtained free by writing to the Division of Research and Publication, Department

of State, Washington, D. C. Just say :
in a postcard or letter that you are a :
Mexican National working in the United :
States and you would like to have a :
copy of this publication sent to you. :

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO
THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT IN MEXICO.

In Mexico the Executive Power is
vested in one person known as "The
President of the United States of Mexico!"

STUDY OF MEXICAN PROGRAM AVAILABLE

The Pan American Union has just
published a study, entitled "Mexican
War Workers in the United States",
which those of you who are interested
in the details of the Mexican farm
labor program will want to read.

It is written in English and is 46
typewritten pages in length.

The first part of the study deals
with the employment of Mexican
Nationals in agriculture, and the
second part with the employment of
Mexican Nationals on railroads.

The Division of Labor and Social
Information of the Pan American Union
is preparing a Spanish edition of
this study which will be ready in
the near future. Those who wish to
read the English edition can ask for
it enclosing 25 cents by writing to:
The Division of Labor and Social
Information, Pan American Union,
Washington 6, D. C.

QUESTION BOX

Remember, if you have questions you
want answered, get in touch with a
representative of the Office of Labor,
War Food Administration. However,
if you do not see a representative
often you may send your questions to

El Mexicano
Room 446
Administration Building
United States Department
of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

The President shall be elected by
direct ballot and in accordance with the
provisions of the electoral law. To be
president a person must be a Mexican
by birth of Mexican born parents, be at
least 35 years of age, have resided with
the country one year previous to the
election day, not belong to any church
order nor be a minister in any church,
not have been in active military service
for one year previous to the election,
not be a Secretary nor Assistant Secretary
of any Ministry, nor governor of any
State, Territory, or the Federal District
for one year previous to the election.

Ordinary elections shall be held on
the first Sunday in July. The President
shall begin his term of office on the
first of December and shall be for a term
of six years. No citizen who has served
as President can for any reason return to
office.

Citizens of Mexico absent from the
country at the time of an election are
not eligible to vote with the exception
of certain diplomatic officials.

(Based on the Constitution of the
United States of Mexico and on the
Electoral Law.)

CONCESSIONS TO WORKERS RETURNING TO
MEXICO.

The Division of Customs of the
Secretariat of the Treasury and Public
Credit of Mexico with a view to giving
Mexican workers returning to that country
the greatest exemptions possible has
authorized that they be given all the
privileges extended to ordinary passengers,
the special concessions granted returning
immigrants and in addition the following
extraordinary ones:

They can take into Mexico free from :
 duty all personal clothing and other :
 effects, utensils, tools, machinery :
 and other items which they bring with :
 them not only those which they took :
 with them or which they used in :
 connection with their work but those :
 purchased for the purpose of utilizing :
 them in their future employment in :
 Mexico. They can also import, free of :
 customs duty, clothing intended for :
 the members of their family provided :
 they are not luxury articles or in :
 excessive amounts. :

In order to benefit from these advantages these workers must prove their :
 residence abroad for a period of at least three months and their status :
 which may be done through their identification cards or equivalent documents :
 issued by the Mexican immigration authorities showing that they :
 left the country as workers, or by any other suitable means. :

KEEP HEALTHY

These simple rules will help you to stay well when you are in the field:

1. Carry your own canteen or water bottle and fill it from a safe supply. Don't drink water from irrigation ditches or streams.
2. If you carry your lunch, put it in a cool, shady place. Exposure to the hot sun may spoil your food.

When you are in the camp:

1. The toilets and privies are a hygienic defense for all, use them. Put the used toilet paper inside the stool. Don't drop it on the floor. Flush the toilet or close the lid on the privy after using and shut the door as you leave.

2. Wash your hands after using the toilet if possible. Always wash your hands before you eat. Dirty hands often carry deadly disease germs.
3. Report promptly to the nurse or manager any bedbugs or lice you find, so that steps may be taken to get rid of them.

When you prepare your own food:

1. Keep all perishable foods in cool place - a refrigerator or ice box if possible.
2. Don't let flies get on your food. Keep the screen doors closed tightly.
3. Don't leave dirty dishes in the kitchen; they attract flies, ants, and roaches. Wash your dishes immediately after eating.
4. Don't throw dirty dish water on the ground outside the kitchen door. Empty it in a slop sink if possible or carry it to a covered soaking pit at least a hundred feet away so that flies will not collect around the kitchen door.
5. Don't throw food scraps such as orange peelings or melon rinds on the ground. Put them in covered containers.
6. Always use pasteurized milk if available. Raw milk can contain dangerous disease germs.

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